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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 4 February 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan (see annex).

I have further the honour to request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security" and "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad E. ROSHAN-RAWAAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan

The Government of the Sudan has decided to establish diplomatic relations with the so-called Peshawar-based Afghan opposition government. Sudan was one of the four countries which had officially recognized it. The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan conveys the following in this connection.

According to the reports that have recently reached here, the régime of General Omar Hassanul Bashir in the Sudan has decided to establish diplomatic relations with the failing Afghan opposition government and to allow them to open its embassy in Khartoum.

It is amazing that a responsible government has taken such a ridiculous and irresponsible action. The Government of the Sudan was among the four countries that, right after the establishment of the so-called interim government, recognized it, owing to the pressure of Saudi Arabia. However, after the changes in the Sudan and the establishment of the exising régime in that country, the new government practically distanced itself from the Afghan opposition.

After the establishment of the régime of Omar Hassanul Bashir in the Sudan, contacts were made and meetings held at high levels between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Sudan. For example, Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan, during his recent visit to Paris, met with General Omar Hassanul Bashir, Head of the State of the Sudan. Likewise, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan in the Embassy of Sudan at Addis Ababa on 26 July 1989, as well as in September of the same year at Belgrade. During these meetings, the Sudan side severely condemned the position of the Afghan opposition and confirmed the offers and proposals of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan as the most realistic alternative for the cessation of war in Afghanistan. Both sides agreed to continue their contacts through their Permanent Representatives at the United Nations. Such contacts are still continuing.

On the basis of certain considerations and the role that the Sudan could play in mediating between the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Afghan opposition which it had undertaken, both sides had agreed that the proceedings of those meetings should not be revealed at that time. But now, the Government of the Sudan, breaching its earlier commitments and by trampling underfoot the accepted norms of international relations, has established diplomatic relations with a homeless government that does not possess anything but a name.

In our view, this decision of an unstable régime of the Sudan, which itself is confronted with a wave of domestic extremism and pressure by Saudi Arabia, cannot be considered anything but yielding to the interests of the extremist parts of the

sovereignty in the Sudan and the satisfaction of Saudi Arabia, which is dissatisfied owing to the Sudan's stand in the Gulf crisis and has reduced its assistance to the Sudan.

The Republic of Afghanistan considers the decision of the Sudan, which will culminate in the further isolation of that country, as contrary to the accepted norms of relations between States and lodges its severe protest to the Government of the Sudan in this connection.